



# Balaclava Bulletin

## November 2017

### *From the Principal's Desk . . .*



We hope you are enjoying the fall as the temperatures start to get cooler. A reminder that daylight savings time will end November 5!

Communication of Learning Initial Observations (FDK) and Progress Reports (gr1-8) were sent home Monday, October 30. The opportunity to discuss your child's report will take place on the evening of Thursday, November 2 or the day of Friday, November 3. We ask that all families participate in our student progress conferences. These discussions will help build a strong home-school connection and assist with planning for future growth and improvement. Information regarding scheduling has been communicated by teachers/advisors directly.

In November, we will be honouring the many brave people who stood up for their beliefs and sacrificed their lives in service to our country. Our upcoming Remembrance Day ceremony will be held on Friday, November 10 at 11:25am in the gym. Parents are welcome to join the solemn ceremony paying tribute to all those that have devoted their lives for our freedom. We encourage all families to take part in Remembrance Day ceremonies in the community on Saturday, November 11 (such as at the Waterdown Legion or the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum).

Also coming up in November we will be participating in our annual Toy Drive for Queen Victoria School. Each year we collect new, unwrapped toys for children (ages 4-11) and deliver them to Queen Victoria School ahead of Christmas. Last year a group of our Leadership Committee also helped serve a turkey lunch at Queen Victoria before joining the students for lunch. Each year the QV students are so thankful to receive a special, unexpected toy at Christmas. As a staff, we feel this is a great opportunity to focus on giving. Here's a picture of just one of the thank-you cards we got from a QV class last year.

We hope you have an enjoyable month ahead and look forward to your ongoing support for our students.

M Wilson  
Principal



### *Save the Date . . .*

#### **Thursday, November 9**

- 6:30pm, Home & School Meeting

#### **Tuesday, November 14**

- 6:00pm, School Council

New members are always welcome!

#### **Friday, December 1**

- P. A. Day

#### **Wednesday, December 13**

- 6:00pm, Gr4-8 Play

#### **Monday, December 18**

- 9:15am, FDK-Gr3 Concert

Details to follow!

### **Volunteering at Balaclava**

Whether it is helping out in a classroom, on an excursion or in our school library, volunteers are important to us at Balaclava. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please request a volunteer package from our office.

As per HWDSB policy, a volunteer package must be completed annually and a Vulnerable Sector Screening every three years. This screening can be obtained either by visiting the King William HPS location or applying online. <http://www.policiesolutions.ca/checks/services/hamilton/>



Please stop in at the office if you have any questions.

### **Posting Pictures of BalACLava Students**

Students participating in extra-curricular activities or school events that are open to the public or that take place in public places such as on field trips and fairs, may be photographed by the school community, news media or general public. This may result in photos or videos being posted on social media sites and in electronic or print news media sites. The school has no control over how and where these images will be posted. However, **parents and guardians at all schools are asked to practice good digital citizenship by being respectful when they post photos of others, which means getting parent/guardian consent before images and videos are shared or posted online.**

Events inside the school, such as performances, awards assemblies, and commencement that are typically attended by family members are often photographed and video recorded by family members.

**We ask those in attendance to respect the privacy rights of all students and their families by getting parent/guardian consent before images and videos are shared or posted online.**

### **School Trips & School Cash**

Thanks to all of our families who have signed up and use School Cash to help us with collecting funds.

Please remember that we must all follow the “due date” on the excursion forms. Trips are automatically removed from School Cash at midnight on the due date. As of the due date, staff tally the numbers and then confirm busing arrangements and submit final numbers to the destination. Once the due date passes, parents will not be able to submit forms and money for a trip.

If you need help signing up for School Cash, please talk to Mrs. Nelligan.

In the event of a situation where a family is experiencing a hardship related to a class trip (or other school expense), please contact Ms. Wilson to confidentially work out a plan for participation. We believe that the excursions we plan are valuable extensions of the learning that is happening in the classroom and that each child should have the opportunity to participate.

### **Devices at School**

We are committed to teaching and modelling for our students the appropriate use of devices for instructional purposes. We are fortunate to have iPads in each of our classes for students to use for assignments.

Primary students (FDK-Gr3) are encouraged to keep personal devices at home. With parental permission, junior (Gr4-6)/intermediate (Gr7-8) students may bring their own devices to school, if used in accordance with our established guidelines.

**\*\* Please remember that BalACLava School assumes no responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen property (including electronic devices) or the content of devices. Student use and storage of personal electronic devices is at their own risk.**

Bringing a device from home is never mandatory. Each class has iPads that are used by students for assignments. Students are never required to bring personal electronic devices to school.



### **Waterdown Santa Claus Parade**

Come out and cheer on our BalACLava students who are in the band and choir at the Waterdown Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, November 25, 2017.

We will be performing musical selections on the Carlisle Optimist Club Float.

We thank the Carlisle Optimist Club for their on-going support of music at BalACLava!

We hope to see you there!



### **Cross-Country Congratulations!**

On October 13th over 75 BalACLava students from Grades Three to Eight took part in a cross-country meet with twenty-three other schools in our Board. Despite the damp weather, the team had a great day of racing and cheering each other on. A strong effort was made by all!

Special mention goes to these top ten finishers:

*Gr. 8 Girls:* Julianna L (5th)

*Gr. 8 Boys:* Ryan S (8th), Cameron M (10th)

*Gr. 6 Girls:* Aryanah K (1st), Eva C (10th)

*Gr. 6 Boys:* Evan M (8th)

*Gr. 5 Girls:* Addi B (1st)

*Gr. 5 Boys:* Brody R (1st), Ryan S (10th)

*Gr. 4 Girls:* Eden H (4th)

*Gr. 4 Boys:* Miles Z (8th)

*Gr. 3 Girls:* Peyton E (1st), McKenzie N (3rd), Lexine O (5th)

*Gr. 3 Boys:* Nicholas G (6th)

Team results are also determined for Grades 6 to 8. This year, teams in the top three were:

Grade 8 Boys Team (2nd)

Grade 7 Boys Team (2nd)

Grade 6 Girls Team (2nd)

Congratulations to all the participants on a great meet, and thanks to all the parent volunteers and supporters who joined us.

*Mrs. Pyper, Mrs. Cassidy,  
Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Nicks*



### **Annual Christmas Toy & Food Drive**

November 15-  
December 12

Our annual *Christmas Toy and Food Drive* will be held November 15-December 12.

We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for children aged 4-11 who attend Queen Victoria School (in Hamilton).

We are suggesting a donation of a toy valued between \$15 and \$20, if possible.

Please send in a new or gently used gift bag with each toy you donate.

Additional new or gently used gift bags are always appreciated.

Food items sent it will be donated to the Flamborough Food Bank.

Thank-you for your support of our annual outreach. We know this will make a difference to the QV students at Christmas.



### **Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT)**

We will be participating in the board-wide screening of Grade 4 students the week of November 13, 2017.

The Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) will be administered to Grade 4 students by the classroom teacher and by the Learning Resource Teacher.

The CCAT was designed to provide an accurate and efficient measure of the abilities needed to acquire the desired outcomes of formal education. The test measures verbal and nonverbal skills in a multiple choice format. Test results will be used to assist with program planning for individual students and as part of the board-wide gifted screening process. No advance preparation on the part of students is necessary.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Jenkins.